

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered, at least because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 is being amended. No new matter is being added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-2, 5-9 and 14-15 are pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,138,862 to Chasteen et al. ("Chasteen"). Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Chasteen. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 9, as amended, recites "a first rolling-contact bearing having a connection bearing shell fixedly mounted to a frame to provide a fixed bearing" and "a second rolling-contact bearing having a movable bearing shell to form a floating bearing, wherein the first and second rolling-contact bearings have a common connecting bearing shell which supports the rolling-contact bodies of the first and second rolling-contact bearing." Chasteen fails to suggest at least this combination of features as recited in claim 9.

Chasteen discloses a bearing for a ram 68, which is movable back and forth using bearing assemblies 64 and 66 (See FIG. 4). The bearing assemblies may include sets of linear bearings spaced around the ram 68 and containing ball bearings 82 (col. 4, lines 43-56). The

ball bearings 82 are circulating, or floating, when the ram 68 is reciprocating in order to avoid unilateral load, and the ram 68 rotates to avoid unilateral load.

Chasteen, however, fails to disclose first and second rolling contact bearings, where the “first rolling-contact bearing [has] a connection bearing shell fixedly mounted to a frame to provide a fixed bearing”, and the “second rolling-contact bearing [has] a movable bearing shell to form a floating bearing, wherein the first and second rolling-contact bearings have a common connecting bearing shell which supports the rolling-contact bodies of the first and second rolling-contact bearing.” Rather, in the Chasteen arrangement, the bearings are both arranged on a common frame. The bearings in Chasteen are not arranged to provide both a fixed bearing and a floating bearing, where the fixed bearing and floating bearing are coupled via the reciprocating ram so that the reciprocating ram forms a common bearing shell. Thus, Chasteen fails to anticipate independent claim 9.

Dependent claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 9, either directly or indirectly, and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 22, 2007

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Richard L. Schwaab

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438